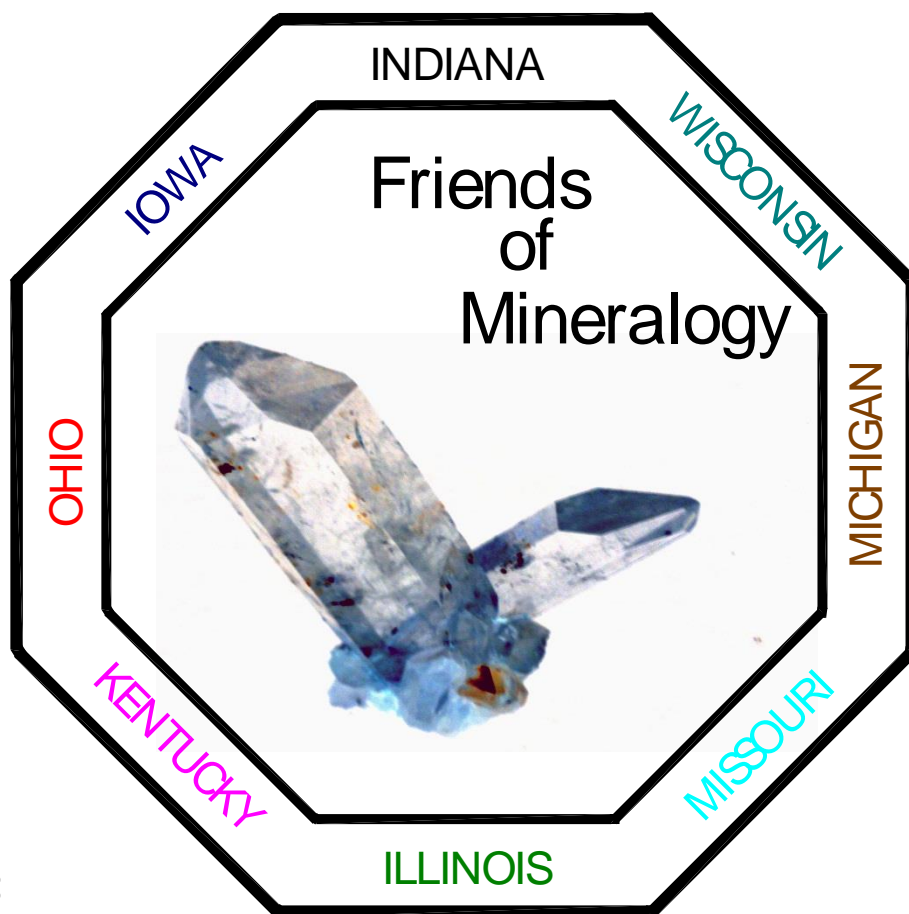


Friends of Mineralogy

Midwest Chapter Newsletter for

July – August 2013



Affiliations:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE

Our purpose is to organize and promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy; to advance mineralogical education; to protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities; to further cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value; and to support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations.

Newsletter published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please submit all information for publication in the newsletter by the 15th of the previous month.



Auglaize trip report

In this issue, Auglaize and Penfield trip reports.

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The next FM meeting will be on Saturday, August 10th at noon. It will be held at the Lawrence County fairgrounds in Bedford, Indiana. Please attend if you can. Nelson Shaffer will be making a presentation on meteorites, their mineralogy, identification and importance.

2013 Officers

President - Clyde Spencer, 1858 Robin Hood Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324
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Vice President Programs – Vacant

Liaison Officer – Vacant

Vice President Field Trips - Reggie Rose, 4287 Parkmead Dr., Grove City, Ohio 43123 (614)875-2675 captaino@core.com

Secretary - John Davis, 58300 Pear Rd., South Bend, Indiana 46619
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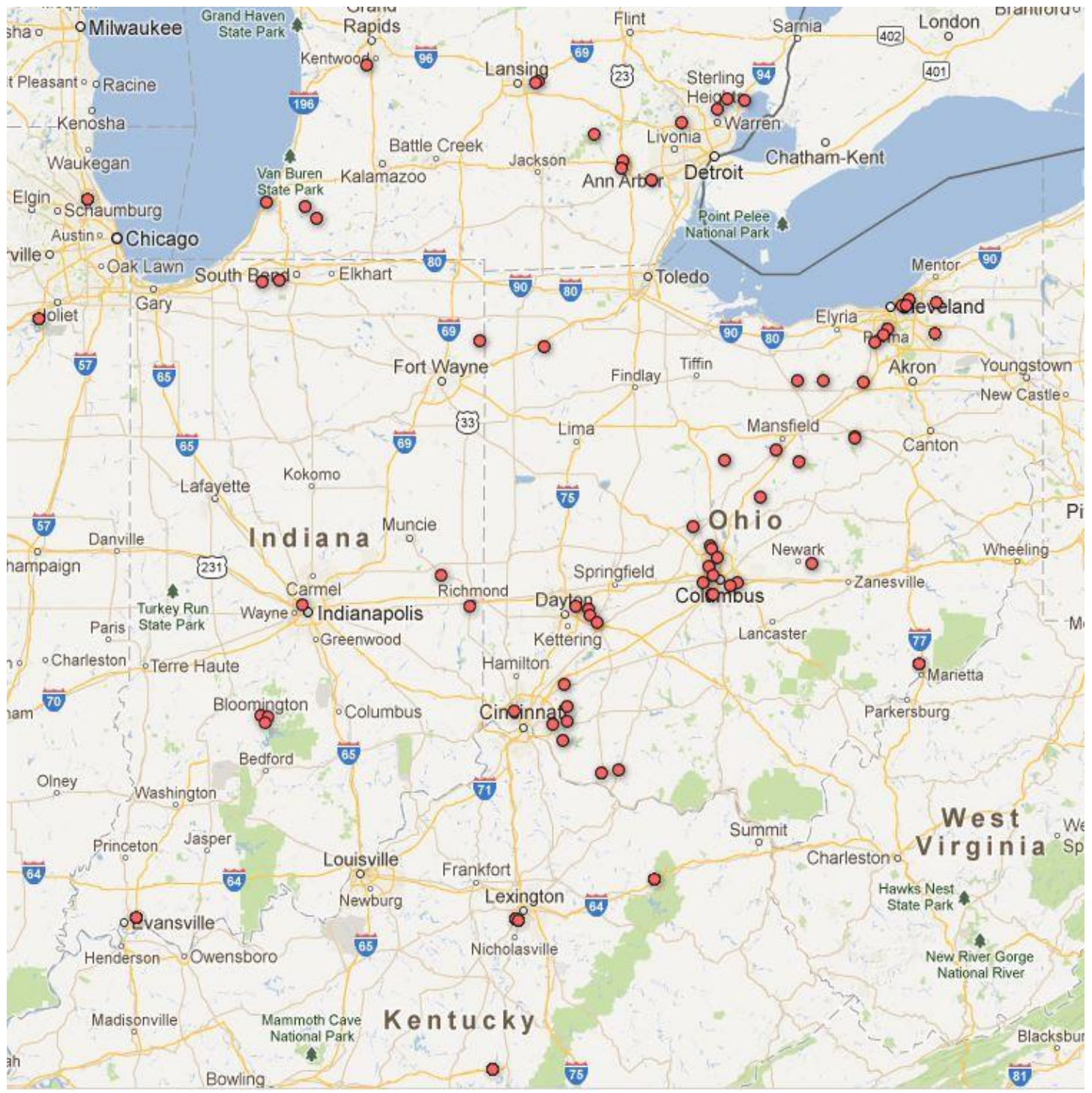
Treasurer - Jeff Spencer, 4948 Beachwood Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
(513)248-0533 jspencer@jsite.com

Fund Raising (Committee Chair) Paul Schwinn, 38 W. Washburn St., New London, Ohio 44851
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Penfield New York dolomite sample from a recent FoM field trip



Current FoM member distribution map (Prepared by Jeff Spencer)

****Does not include members in Tennessee and Arizona***

President's Message

A general membership meeting was held at noon on Sunday, May 5th, in conjunction with the 2013 GeoFair in Cincinnati. The turnout was better than the previous two meetings this year, but there still was not a quorum present. Also, the 2nd Vice President, Reggie Rose, and secretary, John Davis, were not able to attend. Thus, no official business was conducted. However, one item that was discussed informally was the problem of assembling a quorum and conducting official business. Since I'm in favor of having a New England Town Hall style meeting where members can discuss business items, I proposed that we



consider using a 'virtual meeting' to amend the constitution to formally reduce the size of a quorum to allow conducting business in real time with participants actually present. The consensus seemed to be that taking advantage of the internet to modernize and streamline business should be pursued, particularly since the internet was not available generally at the time that the current constitution was written. Therefore, sometime in the future you can expect to receive a request to vote on an amended Constitution and/or Bylaws. Our treasurer, Jeff Spencer, has been exploring using Google Groups to communicate more effectively with the membership. You should have received a Welcome Message about it by now.

I received a binder of historical material from past president David Straw, which was most welcome for our archives.

Jeff Spencer gave a treasurer's report. I'll let you read his report rather than repeat it here.

I wanted to let everyone know that I arranged to have our liability coverage doubled to \$1 million, at no additional cost.

I have set as a goal for myself to expand our field trip opportunities. To that end, I requested permission for members of FMMWC (Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest Chapter) to be allowed to accompany a trip to Sylvania (OH), arranged by the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS). There was an issue of too many people in attendance. After exchanging emails, it appears that the problem was, in part, a matter of DGMS not being diligent in keeping their membership roster current. However, should similar opportunities present themselves, please follow the instructions for registering so that our good working relationships with other organizations are not jeopardized.

A note about the cancelled mid-May field trip: Our FMMWC secretary, John Davis, is also the president of a mineral-collecting group out of South Bend (IN). He had arranged a trip for his club to Marion (KY) to collect fluorite for a fee. As he had done last year, he graciously extended an invitation to FMMWC to accompany his group. He had also arranged for him and me to check out a quarry in Albany (KY) to see if it would be worthwhile bringing a larger group in. Reggie Rose had expressed a desire to collect barite in Missouri. So, I managed to find someone in Missouri who was willing to allow us on his property to collect barite and druzy quartz. The idea was to make a big loop on the collecting to save gas in going so far afield. A half dozen people signed up for the Marion portion of the trip and a couple of those were going to join Reggie, John, and me in Missouri. Reggie raised an issue about the costs for the trip. I looked into the long-range weather forecast and discovered that thunderstorms were forecast for Albany and Marion for the days we expected to be there; scattered thunderstorms were forecast for the Missouri locality on Sunday. All locations would be wet from previous rain. So, while it is possible to collect in the mud, the prospect of lightning was a little more daunting as it meant we might have to huddle in our cars in our muddy clothes to avoid the lightning. After online exchanges between Reggie, John, and myself, considering the costs for the trip and the above circumstances, John decided to cancel the Kentucky trips; the

Missouri trip then didn't really make sense. So, I asked Reggie to formally notify those who had signed up about the cancellation. I apologize to those who were looking forward to the trip, but we had your best interests in mind in deciding to abort the trip. The Marion locality has frequent opportunities that I encourage you to take advantage of on your own. There is still the potential for collecting at the Missouri barite locality, and I'll see what I can do about coordinating two or more collecting opportunities in the future.

Apparently, our chapter has held general business meetings in association with the Lawrence County Rock Club's annual Gem Mineral Fossil Show in Bloomfield (IN), in June, for years. I received a notice from the show chair, Dave Treffinger, that the Monroe County Fairgrounds managers informed him that they can no longer hold their show there. He has arranged to have their show at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds in Bedford (IN) in August. I don't know how many members will be willing to drive to Bedford, but I plan to make a courtesy appearance. The turnout will impact our decision to attend next year. For any of you interested in attending, we are scheduled for noon on Saturday, August 10th. Parking and admission are free. I was told that we should check at the registration desk for the location of the meeting room. For a copy of their show flyer, go to their website: <http://www.lawrencecountyrockclub.org/rockshow.html>. Incidentally, they are apparently having free mine safety training starting at 9:00 AM.

We seem to be over our birthing pains and can, hopefully, focus more on improving the organization. To that end, we are still in need of a First Vice President to take on the responsibility of planning events. We also need a Liaison Officer to round out the executive board. Lastly, our finances are not as robust as I would like them to be. I have been unable to contact the person, Paul Schwinn, who is listed as our committee chair for fund raising. We can consider raising our dues, or alternatively, we can try to get someone to volunteer to be chairman of the fund raising committee and see if we can fatten our account that way. However, without additional funds we will not be able to really participate in non-profit activities such as supporting symposia or providing scholarships. So, I hope someone reading this has experience with fund raising and will volunteer to assist.

SAW FOR SALE?

Does anyone have a saw for sale?
I am looking for a water cooled table saw to trim pieces with 1, 10" to 14" blade. Call Reggie Rose to leave a message anytime at 614-875-2675 or email me at captaino@core.com.

Treasurer's Report

We have paid our 2013 insurance premium and National FM dues. We also paid our outstanding 2012 dues. This leaves us with \$760.41 in our combined accounts as of June 5, 2013.

Also we have completed testing of the use of Google Groups for the Active Member email list and completed the rollout.

By now you should have received a welcome message to our new Google Group. Google Groups is a powerful tool, but we're limiting the features to a simple email distribution list. Here's an explanation of what features we are using and how it works.

The group is set up as a private list. This means that it is not listed in the Google Groups directory and the public cannot join or request membership on their own. The Treasurer will maintain the list and is responsible for seeing that all active members, as defined in the by-laws, are in the group.

Only the Officers are authorized to post to the group. When they send a message to the group address, Google Groups will forward the message to all group members. Recipients cannot reply to the group, but may reply to the original author.

You do not need a Google account to be a member of the group and receive posts. There is a website for the group that will hold a copy of all posts. You do need a Google account to access the FM-Midwest Group site, but it is not necessary since all posts will be forwarded to you by email.

Please send me any questions or concerns that you have.

Jeff Spencer

Treasurer - Friends of Mineralogy Inc.

Midwest Chapter

jspencer@jsite.com

513-476-2163 You will not need to take any actions to be added to the group member list.

Field Trip Reports



Auglaize Quarry – June 2013 (Stephen Shimatzki photo)

It had been almost seven months since our last field trip to Genoa, and with a lack of blasting going on in our region, April and May trips did not materialize. We were able to arrange a June trip, and 32 FM field trippers had an enjoyable, if not lucrative, collecting day. There were five no shows for this trip, but we were aware of that ahead of time. I have a feeling that the five cancellations were due to threatening weather. We had our share of rain on the way to the site, but miraculously not a drop fell during the allotted collecting time. The number attending was a pretty large group. MSHA paperwork was checked, attendance was taken, and since everyone was early or close to on time, we began our journey into the pit at precisely 7:30.

The usual minerals found in this quarry are calcite, sphalerite, pyrite, and of course fluorite. Personally, I saw fluorite and pyrite microcrystalline smears neither of which were worthy of packing home. I also observed a good amount of calcite, but it has been more abundant in the past. I went to the dark rock at the quarry's far end and still struck out. I did see some interesting finds. Don Walker (Columbus, OH) and Lawrence Hull (Mansfield, OH) discovered some fluorites. In fact, Lawrence Hull felt sorry for me and gave me a boulder containing fluorite to work on. Early in the trip Scott Kell (Columbus, OH) found a nice phantom fluorite, purple on the inside and clear on the outside. Dan Hall (Columbus, OH) found a stromatolite which had alternating layers composed of the matrix rock and calcite filling. Dan also came up with what looked like a tabular calcite with thin crystal layers stacked one up the other.

The whopper find of the day was made by Amy Bach and Alan Dewitt (Richmond, IN) who had a truckload of small iridescent fluorite pockets ranging in size from 0.5" to almost 2 inches. One specimen had two pockets; one that was brown iridescent and the other which was purple iridescent, a great find.

If you would like your finds to be included in future field trip reports, email me the written report on what you have found and send all photos to our FM bulletin editor, Tom Bolka.



Some nice Auglaize Quarry fluorites

SIGNING UP FOR FM FIELD TRIPS IS MANDATORY

Signing up for a field trip is more than just a courtesy even if there is "no limit" on the number of people that can sign up. Why would that be? Actually, two cases come to mind, see below.

Case 1: Let's say that a field trip is postponed due to flooding (and one was two years ago). If you have not signed up for the trip and it is postponed, you will not know it. So you unknowingly will drive to the quarry. When you arrive at the quarry, there will be no one there and the gates will be locked. You will have driven hundreds of miles to go to a nonexistent field trip for nothing. With gas edging to \$4.00 a gallon these days, that will be an expensive lesson.

Case #2: Let's say that we have 30 people signed up for a trip and we are ready to go into the pit. Two people are not yet there, and they do not have a cell phone to inform us that they are running late. If you are one of those people, we will have the quarry host keep an eye out for you. DO NOT drive past the office directly to the pit without first signing in and signing an on-site form. If we displease quarry hosts, we may lose valuable collecting sites. Instead, wait at the office for the quarry host to return to the office. Let's keep our hosts happy. Then we'll have places to go on field trips.

Happy "field tripping".

Penfield Quarry – May 2013

Penfield was loaded with collectors, but its unfortunate that only 2 from FM were on hand. I understand that this field trip opportunity was on the same weekend as the Cincinnati show, that's unfortunate about the dates. We should try to keep going to the Cincinnati show; it is the biggest show that I know of in the state of Ohio. Perhaps the FM leadership can write a joint email to the quarry superintendent as a petition to have him move his trip to the last weekend in April or the second weekend in May.

Getting to the trip, I left Grove City, OH at 9:30 pm Friday, May 3rd and arrived at the Penfield, NY quarry around 4:30 am. I went into town and laid down for about an hour, but could not sleep. So I went back to the quarry where I witnessed both strange and marvelous things.

HERE'S WHAT I FOUND STRANGE:

The number and nature of the collectors at the quarry, there were over 100 people. The check-in procedure was a little odd. The quarry foreman only shared to stay 15 feet back from the high wall and that was about it. Rather than each collector signing an on-site form, everyone just wrote their name on a sheet of paper. Most of the group was ahead of me, and when I got boots on the ground I saw people of all ages. The collectors must have ranged from 6 to 76 years old. In the PPE department, there was quite an array of garb. Some very young folks wore tennis shoes and used bicycle helmets. Others wore hockey and scooter helmets. One guy even had on a fireman's helmet! If he'd been present our MSHA instructor Mike Reese would have had a seizure.

HERE'S WHAT I FOUND MARVELOUS:

The weather was nice, the collectors were friendly, and new member Will Alabran was there. Upon entering the collecting area, picture yourself driving up the stem of the letter "T". At the bottom of the "T" (and bottom of a ramp) there was a large pile of rock to peruse. At the top of the ramp, you could drive 0.2 mile west and there was blast material on both sides of the road. The east wing of the "T" was also 0.2 mile long on both sides. There was one area

where the high wall was too close to collect near, so totally, there was 0.7 mile of blast rock to search. Awesome!

The trips listed minerals were calcite, dolomite, fluorite, selenite and sphalerite.

I was lucky enough to see all five. Also, I did see an unobtainable spray of celestite in the middle of a large boulder. The quarry was loaded with dolomite. The curved rhombs of dolomite crystals ranged in size from 1/16" to huge 3/8" crystals. Almost all the dolomite was in pockets, most was white, and some had a slightly pink hue. I found clear and white calcite here with both rhombohedral and sharp scalenohedral habits. The sphalerite crystals here were glassy and red-brown. The selenite crystals were small, up to 1/2" and were usually found in a pocket by themselves, but sometimes were embedded in alabaster (white, massive) gypsum. Dolomite was king here, and most accessory specimens were in a pocket with dolomite (with the exception of selenite). I did see and take pictures of a clear fluorite and a purple fluorite. The purple fluorite was clear, to pale purple. The nicest cubic fluorite that I saw was 1/2" inch in diameter. There have also been reports of blue fluorite here. On the day, I collected 157 dolomite specimens and 3 selenite specimens. Of the 157 dolomite specimens, 4 had calcite and 9 had sphalerite. Of the specimens with dolomite only, I collected 110 hand specimens, while the other 34 specimens ranged from 4" to 12" in size.

The quarry was so large that the collecting started at 7:00 am and I did not run into the other guy I knew on the trip, Will Alabran until 11:28 am. Brian Riffle, from Rochester, NY had the specimen of the day – a specimen about the size of a honey dew melon that had dogtooth calcite and clear fluorite with the dolomite.

Though our attendance was miniscule, it was a good collecting quarry and it sets us up not only for future trips there, but puts us in a position to contact the company for their fall open house at Walworth. The geology and minerals of Walworth are the same as Penfield.



Some of Reggie Roses' finds at Penfield

FM TO GO NORTH FOR A JULY TRIP IN JUNE

I tried to get a quarry for the first two weeks of July. Unfortunately, none were available. During the 2nd half of the month I hope to be collecting in some abandoned mine out west. Our field trip schedule should be active for August through November. The sign up procedure for this quarry will be similar to other quarries that we attend. Signing up is mandatory, especially since this quarry has a limit this year on the number of collectors that can attend. MSHA is required. I will be checking the certificates of any people that have not been cleared on a previous trip. After you sign up, you will receive either a confirmation from me that you are on the list to attend, or that you are on the waiting list. If you make the signup list and I have not previously reviewed your MSHA paperwork make sure that you bring it! You will not get in without the certificate and you will be wasting a spot that someone on the waiting list could have filled. Guests must also be MSHA trained and registered. They will be permitted on site only after paid members are served.

Quarry Travel Guide:

Field Trip Locality: Great Lakes Aggregates – Sylvania Minerals

Address: 5690 Ready Road, South Rockwood, MI 48179

Date of Trip: Saturday June 29, 2013

Time of Field Trip: 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Travel Time from Designated Point: Total Time: 3:18 (from Grove City, OH; exit 100 on I 71)

County: Monroe

Age of Rock: Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian

Rock Units: Exposed in descending order: from the Lower Devonian: the Sylvania Sandstone, the Bois Blanc and the Garden Island formation, from the Upper Silurian: the Raisin River Dolomite

Minerals Present: Fluorite (clear to brown), Calcite (yellow nailhead), Celestite (white to blue), Quartz (drusy on chert)

Training Required: MSHA

Quarry Location: From exit #26 on interstate 75 in Michigan, drive 0.2 miles off of the exit ramp – then turn right (toward Ready Road) on Huron Drive; 0.8 mile later, turn right onto Ready Road; 0.3 mile later, turn right toward the quarry office; 0.2 mile later, you will arrive at the quarry office of Great Lakes Aggregates, Sylvania Minerals.